

[Part I

morality, religion is bare hypocrisy or hollow superstition.

But what is the sum and substance of morality

? The acknow-

ledged golden rule—"To love Thy neighbour as Thyself/"

^c to cherish all creatures as thine own person

" has in all

ages been applauded as the highest law. Self-love is an

instinct, a deep-seated natural prompting in every bosom.

Imprinted in every thought and ruling one's feelings and

actions, this instinct is the source of all offence—of all

injustice and inhumanity—in the world. It runs through

every human concern, it is the motive power of all human

movements. With their incommensurable wisdom, therefore,

our ancestors, who were deep read in all the secrets of human

nature, its prejudices and predilections—summed up the

essence of all morality in that one golden rule which has ever

challenged the just admiration of a civilised world.

But after all, this love of one's neighbour as one's self

does not appear to be the highest law. The acme of true

morality is loftier than a just recognition of the world's

equality to one's own self. In fact, with the growth and refine-

ment of man's moral nature, the love of self sinks and ulti-

mately disappears. The patriot that bleeds in
the country's
cause; the philanthropist that by his dumb
eloquence and
silent self-sacrifice pleads the cause of his very
murderers;
the doctor that throws himself into pestilence
and even sucks ^J
up poison to snatch a precious life from the
sharp scythe of ^f
the "grim old king"; the mother that
embraces death to
ensure the safety of her innocent babe; the
lover that risks
and lays down his own life in defence of the
beloved; the
martyr that smiles on the scaffold and seals
the truth of his
conviction with his life-blood; —all live and
move and have ⁱ
their being in an ethical atmosphere, purer,
nobler and [^]
holier than that of morality enjoined by "Love
thy neighbour
as thyself." "To love thy neighbour as thyself is
surely a
noble law, a golden rule; but to shake off self,
to love our
fellow beings *not for their sake but for the
sake of the Supreme*